



Boston Connects, Incorporated
Boston Empowerment Zone
2201 Washington Street

Annual Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2005

Members Present:

President-George Greenidge, Treasurer-Mike Foley, Clerk-Gloria Coney, Joelee Baker-Bey, Ralph Cooper, Michael Glavin, Julia Flashner, Mark Maloney, Elizabeth Miranda, Charlotte Golar-Richie, Jayne Talbot, Freddie Umeh

Members Absent:

Robert Kinney, Vice President, Larry Mayes, Rev. Roland McCall, Joan Wallace-Benjamin

BCI Staff:

Shirley Carrington, Sherry O'Brien, Judy Roderick

Ex-Officios:

Senator Dianne Wilkerson

Guest Awardee:

Juanita B. Wade

Ms. Coney, Clerk of the Board, called the Annual Meeting to order at 6:15PM.

Ms. Coney welcomed all to BCI's fifth Annual Meeting and began the meeting by introducing Jayne Talbot, Chair of the Nominating Committee who announced the newly elected 2005 Officers of Boston Connects, Inc. Board of Directors:

President:	Mr. George Greenidge
Vice President:	Mr. Robert Kinney
Treasurer:	Mr. Mike Foley
Clerk:	Ms. Gloria Coney

Ms. Coney introduced the President of the Board, Mr. George Greenidge.

Board President's remarks:

Mr. Greenidge thanked everyone for attending the 2005 Annual meeting and expressed his appreciation to the Hampton Inn for hosting the event. He spoke of the Economic Development accomplishments in the Empowerment Zone and how proud the Board was of its investments in these projects.

He stated that he looked forward to continuing to work with the Board, Mayor Menino and his administration, businesses etc. to continue Economic Development in the Empowerment Zone. He made reference to the Palmer Street project and the other developments that have occurred in Dudley Square. He congratulated Mayor Menino on his announcement on December 16th to renovate the Ferdinand building.



Mr. Greenidge introduced Ms. Carrington, Acting Executive Director of BCI who gave an overview of the past year programming.

Ms. Carrington, Acting Executive Director gave the following report of BCI program operations over the past year.

Ms. Carrington stated that BCI had made significant investments of capital available to accomplish its mission of economic Self-sufficiency to individuals, families and communities. She stated that 2004 was a very productive year for BCI and although at this year's Annual Meeting, we are celebrating our economic partnerships, we couldn't provide the many services that we provide to help zone residents become self sufficient without our human services partners many of whom are present this evening. The following program investments were made over the past year.

Education and Job Readiness Chaired by Mr. Robert Kinney

- Funded 6 community based skills training programs serving 80 residents over a 2-year period. \$300,000
- Career Centers, we have contacted to service 100 residents. \$550,000
- The Ex-offender Initiative is a major initiative funded under the Education and Job Readiness Committee; an investment of \$500,000 was committed to serve ex-offenders returning to the community. From these resources the following programs have been funded.
- GED programs were funded at \$150,000 to help 80 zone residents obtain their GED.
Bridge Over Troubled Waters
Dimock Community Health Center
\$150,000 was made available to serve 80 inmates at the Suffolk County House of Correction.
- A Fatherhood Initiative was recently funded at \$100,000 over a two-year period will serve 175 fathers in the Empowerment Zone.

Health and Well Being Committee Chaired by Ms. Elizabeth Miranda

In 2004, BCI allocated \$1,000,000 to provide summer jobs for zone youth ages 14-17 and 18-year-old youth returning to high school. Thanks to our partners.

- ABCD
- Boston Centers for Youth and Families
- Boston Private Industry Council

For making the summer 2004, a success for 800 zone youth.

Family Opportunity Networks were funded at \$1,140,000 over two years to provide comprehensive services that will remove barriers to employment for 1,000 zone residents/families. This program was the cornerstone program in our application to HUD 6 years ago. However when we weren't funded at the level promised, the BCI board and staff had to figure out how to make this program happen. It's happening through organizations in the Empowerment Zone forming collaborations to provide these services. Thanks to the following agencies for pulling together other agencies and developing solid proposals to make this program a reality

- Brookview House
- Boston Centers for Youth and Families
- Jewish Vocational Services
- Mission Main Resident Services
- Laboure Center



Child care quality improvement grants were awarded to 6 Center based and family providers in the zone. These grants will impact 302 children.

Economic Development Committee Chaired by Mr. Michael Glavin

2004 saw three new economic development projects get off the ground.

- Katsiroubas Brothers
- Palmer/Warren Street Project
- Opening of this fabulous building that we are sitting in Hampton Inn and Suites at Crosstown Center

The investment of \$450,000 was allocated to provide microloans to existing businesses in the Empowerment Zone. Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation will provide these services over the next three years

Community Relations/Community Capacity Building Chaired by Mr. Joelee Baker-Bey

Building on the fundraising and grantwriting workshops sponsored in 2003 to 30 Community and Faith Based organization to help them to develop fundraising and grant writing skills, BCI invested an additional \$80,000 to provide a series of workshops known as the EZ Institute. These workshops are designed to build capacity and strengthen smaller CBO's and Faith-based Organization organizations.

TECHNOLOGY

In an effort to bridge the digital divide in the Empowerment Zone, BCI invested \$320,000 in community technology programs making free technology courses available to the zone residents. The following organizations were funded to provide technology services.

- Timothy Smith collaborative offers technology services through 10 locations throughout Roxbury
- South Boston Neighborhood House
- Parker Hill Fenway Center
- Grove Hall Youth Center
- Madison Park CDC
- Roxbury Multi-Service Center

Looking ahead to 2005

Most of these programs are will continue in 2005. Ms. Carrington suggested that questions and information regarding BCI program availability be addressed to BCI at 617-541-2670

- Ongoing specialized skills training through CBO's will continue.
- Skills Training through Career Centers will continue
- The ex-offender initiative will continue to develop.
- Employment services for ex-offenders.
- Case management services for ex-offenders
- An ex-offender Summit is planned for June, 2005
- Family Opportunity Networks will continue
- All technology programs will continue through 2005.

Additionally, the board will continue to review program service needs.

In closing, Ms. Carrington thanked the Board of Directors

Ex-Officios, all of our community and faith based partners

EDIC staff (Conny Doty and her staff Michelle Trousil, Judy Steriti, Ken Barnes, Mark Beamis, Rose Fields.



Last, but certainly not least the BCI staff Sherry O'Brien and Judy Roderick.

Treasurer's Report:

Mike Foley, Treasurer of the Board gave an update of the BCI budget as of December, 04. Mr. Foley reported that todate BCI has received a total of \$24,953,966. Of that amount \$17M has been spent or allocated to Programs and Crosstown investment. \$5.9M has be spent or allocated for Operations/Governance (this includes operations and staffing through 2007, leaving approximately \$2,053,966 available for programs. He remarked that BCI will engage in a strategic planning process to help determine how to continue to fund needed programs with less HUD funding.

Remarks by Mayor Menino

Mayor Thomas M.Menino, gave remarks expressing his gratitude for the work done by the Board of Directors. He commented on the positive changes to the Empowerment Zone and the wonderful impact it has had on individuals and families. Projects such as the Hampton Inn and Suites are great examples of how the EZ has made a difference in the community. Mayor Menino spoke on the importance of public/private partnerships. He referenced the photos of the many projects that have been accomplished through partnerships with businesses, the City and the Empowerment Zone. He urged the Board to continue this great worked and urged Federal Government to make good on their funding commitment to the Empowerment Zone. Mayor Menino then presented Ms. Juanita Wade with the Special Recognition award for her many years of leadership and guidance in shaping Boston Connects, Inc. and the Empowerment Zone Strategic Plan. In presenting Ms. Wade, he thanked her for her leadership on the Empowerment Zone Initiative and for her work on his administration as the Chief of Human Services. "We miss her here in Boston but I am sure she is doing valuable work in Washington".

In accepting the award, Ms. Wade thanked the Mayor and the Board for the award and for the opportunity to work with the Mayor or this great project. She commented on the wonderful experience of working on the EZ project and being part of the positive impact that the project has had on the Empowerment Zone and the City of Boston.

Remarks, Mr. Miniard Culpepper, Acting Regional Director HUD

Mr. Culpepper congratulated the Empowerment Zone Board on the fine work it has accomplished since designation. He thanked Mayor Menino and the Board of Directors for their leadership in the Empowerment Zone both through the economic development and the human development. He commented on the differences made with the Empowerment Zone resources. Mr. Culpepper reminded us that although we are seeking additional funding, he urged us to be proud of the great accomplishments we have made with the resources received to date.



Keynote speaker, Reverend Conrad B. Tillard

Rev. Tillard gave the keynote speech. In his remarks he spoke of the wonderful work the Empowerment Zone has done in the Dudley Square area. Rev. Tillard very nicely paralleled the work in the Empowerment Zone with the Economic Development work happening in the New York thorough collaborative work with the Abyssinian Church in Harlem, New York.

Community Partnership Award

Mr. Greenidge and Ms. Coney presented the Community Partnership Award to Senator Diane Wilkerson. The Senator thanked Boston Connects, Inc. for the award and thanked the Board of Directors for their service, dedication and commitment to the community and residents of the Empowerment Zone. She commented on her work with the Sovereign Bank to accomplish the agreement recently signed. Senator Wilkerson committed her continuous support of the Empowerment Zone in realizing the commitments made to the Empowerment Zone.

Awards to Retiring Directors

George Greenidge acknowledged the retiring Board Members for their service and presented those present with a certificate of appreciation. The retiring Board members are: Betty Greene, Lila Reid, John Wagner, Roberta Williams, and Thomas Yee.

Closing remarks

Mr. Greenidge thanked all for attending the Annual meeting and encouraged attendees to contact Boston Connects regarding information about any of its programs. He also encouraged anyone interested in serving on the Board to call the Boston Connects office to get more information about the criteria for Board membership.

A true record attest:

Gloria Coney, Clerk

Date

